

**Amendments to the Claims**

Please cancel claim 13, amend claims 11, 12, 14 and 15, and add new claim 21 in accordance with the following list of claims.

1. (Previously Presented) A charge collecting system connected by a network to user terminals operated by a plurality of users, the system comprising:

a use information management unit which manages use information of the plurality of users and generates requested contents related to such use information for each of the plurality of users as of a closing date of a predetermined period of time during which each respective user is authorized to use the charge collection system;

a notice information management unit which manages the requested contents to be notified to each of the plurality of users via the network according to a corresponding user address on the network provided by the use information management unit for each of the respective users;

a requested contents notice unit which transmits to each of the users via the network, the corresponding requested contents and a payment execution information including an address of the notice information management unit to which a paying instruction regarding the corresponding requested contents is to be sent; and

a settlement unit which makes a real-time settlement on the network when there is an access by one of the plurality of users to the paying address notified by the requested contents notice unit and the paying instruction regarding the corresponding requested contents from the one user is received.

2. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 1, wherein said requested contents notice unit transmits the requested contents to each of the users by Email in accordance with the use information managed by the use information management unit.

3. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 1, wherein said requested contents notice unit is permitted to transmit said requested contents to said user only in the period of time during which the use is permitted by said use management information of each of said users.

4. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined period is one month.
5. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 1, wherein the system is further connected by the network to a wallet server comprising an electronic wallet corresponding to each of the plurality of users, such that the settlement unit has access to the electronic wallets for the real-time settlement associated with each of the users.
6. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein said settlement unit makes the settlement in accordance with an SET (Secure Electronic Transactions).
7. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein said settlement by said settlement unit is a credit settlement using a credit card.
8. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein said settlement by said settlement unit is a settlement using prepaid-type electronic money.
9. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 1, wherein each of the respective addresses of the users and the paying address is a URL (Uniform Resource Locator) on the Internet.
10. (Previously Presented) A computer program for a charge collecting system, wherein said program is executable on a computer controlling said charge collecting system so as to cause said system to perform:
  - a use information management step for managing use information of a plurality of users and generating requested contents related to such use information for each of the plurality of users as of a closing date of a predetermined period of time during which each respective user is authorized to use the charge collection system;
  - a notice information management step for managing the requested contents to be notified to each of the plurality of users via a network according to a corresponding user

address on said network provided for each of the respective users as part of the use management information which is managed in said use information management step;

a requested contents notice step for transmitting to each of the users by Email via the network the corresponding requested contents managed in the notice information management step and a payment execution information including a paying address to which a paying instruction regarding the corresponding requested contents is to be sent; and

a settlement step for making real-time settlement on the network when there is an access by one of the plurality of users to the paying address notified in the requested contents notice step and the paying instruction regarding the corresponding requested contents from the one user is received.

11. (Currently Amended) A charge collecting system connected by a network to user terminals operated by a plurality of users, the system comprising:

a use information management unit which manages use information of the plurality of users and generates requested contents for ~~each~~ respective ones of the plurality of users as of a termination date ~~prior to a date of closing of a predetermined current~~ period during which each respective user is ~~to be~~ authorized to use the charge collection system;

a notice information management unit which manages the requested contents to be notified to ~~the each~~ respective ones of the plurality of users via the network according to a corresponding user address on the network provided by the use information management unit for each of the respective users;

a requested contents notice unit which transmits to ~~the each~~ respective ones of the users via the network, the corresponding requested contents and a payment execution information including an address of the notice information management unit to which a paying instruction regarding the corresponding requested contents is to be sent; and

a settlement unit which makes a real-time settlement on the network when there is an access by any one of the respective ~~plurality of~~ users to the paying address notified by the requested contents notice unit and the paying instruction regarding the corresponding requested contents from the one user is ~~received~~ received,

wherein the settlement unit provides the use information management unit with information indicative of completion of the settlement with respect to the one user and the use

information management unit updates the authorization of the one user to use the charge collection system during a next period following the current period on the basis of the information.

12. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 11, wherein said requested contents notice unit transmits the requested contents to the each respective ones of the users by Email in accordance with the use information managed by the use information management unit.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim ~~13~~ 11, wherein the notice information management unit is able to receive content use instructions via the network from any one of the plurality of users, the use information management unit is able to determine, based on the information indicative of settlement completion, whether the content use instructions were received by the notice information management unit during the next period for which the one user is authorized to use the charge collection system, and the notice information management unit is further able to transmit notification to the one user via the network of the determination made by the use information management unit.

15. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 11, wherein the current period and the next predetermined period are each is one month.

16. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 11, wherein the system is further connected by the network to a wallet server comprising an electronic wallet corresponding to each of the plurality of users, such that the settlement unit has access to the electronic wallets for the real-time settlement associated with each of the users.

17. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 11, wherein said settlement unit makes the settlement in accordance with an SET (Secure Electronic Transactions).

18. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 11, wherein said settlement by said settlement unit is a credit settlement using a credit card.

19. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 11, wherein said settlement by said settlement unit is a settlement using prepaid-type electronic money.

20. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 11, wherein each of the respective addresses of the users and the paying address is a URL (Uniform Resource Locator) on the Internet.

21. (New) A system according to claim 14, further comprising:  
a contents distributing unit for distributing contents to the one user when the determination is made by the use information management unit that the content use instructions were received during the next period for which the one user is authorized to use the charge collection system.